



# Ironworker Aboriginal Career Awareness Program

The right program  
at the right time

## It's the right program at the right time

The construction industry needs ironworkers.  
Aboriginal youth need jobs.

That's why the Construction Sector Council and the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council are working together to develop the **Ironworker Aboriginal Career Awareness Program**.

The initiative already has a foothold because for more than 100 years, Aboriginal communities across Canada have been producing top-notch ironworkers. Like their predecessors, today's ironworkers continue to add to that tradition of excellence.

But many of these potential mentors are facing retirement within the next 10 years. And unless we take steps now to encourage more Aboriginal youth to enter the trade, there could be serious consequences for the industry.

## A step-by-step approach

Research shows that in the next decade, demand for ironworkers will exceed supply. In addition, the Aboriginal population is growing faster than other segments of Canadian society, with more than 50% under 15 years of age. By 2006, there will be a working population of 920,000 – the largest untapped labour pool in the country!

To be successful, the Ironworker Aboriginal Career Awareness Program must create realistic expectations based on factual information about where and when job opportunities will occur. We must also work closely with Aboriginal communities and training providers to facilitate apprenticeship and training.

A step-by-step approach to making this connection between ironwork and Aboriginal youth includes:

- Marketing the ironworker trade to Aboriginal youth
- Working to facilitate training
- Identifying job opportunities across Canada, by tracking construction activities, such as the Whistler Olympics
- Linking Aboriginal youth with ironworker employment



## You can help

Whether you are a labour, business, government, education or Aboriginal community group, if you think you can help with this project, please contact the CSC at the address below.

The CSC is a national organization committed to the development of a highly skilled workforce – one that will support the needs of the construction industry now and well into the future. Created in 2001, it is a partnership between labour, business, and government.

The AHRDCC is an independent partnership organization established in 1998. Through unique partnerships with corporate, educational, government and Aboriginal leaders, the Council pioneers new ways to increase skills and training opportunities for Aboriginal people in Canada.



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